

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LIBREV 00026 031432Z

43

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-07 COME-00 TRSE-00 PM-03 NSC-05

SP-02 SS-15 RSC-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00

PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 AID-05 IGA-01 XMB-02 /063 W

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R 031201Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAIR, GB

SUBJ: LOCKHEED L-100 HERCULES

1. DURING HIS ANNUAL SPEECH MARKING THE END OF THE YEAR (REPORTED IN DETAIL SEPARATELY), PRESIDENT BONGO MENTIONED EFFORTS THAT GABON HAD TAKEN IN 1974 AND WOULD TAKE IN 1975 TO MODERNIZE AND IMPROVE ITS CIVILIAN AND MILITARY AIR FLEETS. AFTER DISCUSSING FOKKER F-28S AND DC-8 RECENTLY ACQUIRED, PRESIDENT BONGO SAID FOLLOWING: QUOTE. OUR MILITARY FLEET, FOR ITS PART WILL BE EQUIPPED WITH PLANES THAT ARE MOST MODERN AND BEST ADAPTED TO NECESSITIES OF INDEPENDENCE AND PROTECTION OF NATIONAL TERRITORY. IT HAS ALREADY BEEN REINFORCED IN 1974 BY A GRUMMAN, A HERCULES AND A MYSTERE 20. OUR EFFORTS WILL BE CONTINUED AND ACCELERATED IN 1975. END QUOTE.

2. THIS STATEMENT OF PRESIDENT OBVIOUSLY DISTURBING IN LIGHT OF EXIM REQUIREMENT THAT L-100 HERCULES NOT BE USED FOR MILITARY PURPOSES. HOWEVER, EXIM DOES HAVE SIGNED STATEMENT BY MINFINANCE MOUKAMBI THAT PLANE WILL NOT BE USED FOR EITHER OFFENSIVE OR DEFENSIVE MILITARY PURPOSES. IT QUITE POSSIBLE THAT PRESIDENT BONGO, WHO WAS TALKING ABOUT BOTH CIVILIAN AND MILITARY AIRCRAFT SIMPLY PUT HERCULES IN WRONG PLACE. IN THIS

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CONNECTION IT NOTEWORTHY THAT BONGO ALSO LISTED MYSTERE 20

(WHICH INCIDENTALLY ACQUIRED PRIOR TO 1974) UNDER
QUOTE MILITARY END QUOTE HEADING EVEN THOUGH IT IS
PRESIDENTIAL VIP JET WHICH HAS NEITHER BEEN USED FOR
NOR IS CAPABLE OF FULFILLING ANY MILITARY PURPOSES.
EMBASSY SEEKING CLARIFICATION OF PRESIDENT'S STATEMENT
AND INTENT OF GOG REGARDING L-100 HERCULES.

3. FULL TEXT OF BONGO SPEECH BEING POUCHED JANUARY 4.
COUNTRYMAN

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Message Attributes

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Draft Date: 03 JAN 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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